

IMPORTATION OF VEHICLES INTO CANADA

This leaflet provides information on the private and commercial (for resale) importation of vehicles.

NOTICE: WHILE A VEHICLE MAY BE ELIGIBLE FOR IMPORTATION UNDER REVENUE CANADA LEGISLATION, THAT VEHICLE MAY NOT BE ELIGIBLE UNDER TRANSPORT CANADA'S MOTOR VEHICLE SAFETY ACT. PLEASE READ THIS LEAFLET CAREFULLY.

The **Motor Vehicle Safety Act (MVSA)** and **Regulations** require that all vehicles imported into Canada comply with the **Canada Motor Vehicle Safety Standards (CMVSS)** in effect on the date the vehicle was manufactured. The requirements apply to the following vehicle classes if, when new, they are less than fifteen (15) years old and to all buses manufactured after January 1,

SCHOOL BUSES e.g. school buses, transit buses, shuttle buses, etc.

SIS-CABS e.g. motorized chassis.

MOTORCYCLES e.g. motorcycles, limited speed motorcycles. (Also see Restricted Use Motorcycles below).

LIMITED-PURPOSE PASSENGER VEHICLES (MPV) e.g. vans, van conversions, minivans, campervans, rhomes, jeeps and some 4x4's.

LIMITED-PURPOSE PASSENGER CARS e.g. passenger cars, kit cars, limousines and stretched limousines.

RESTRICTED USE MOTORCYCLES e.g. 3 & 4 wheeled all terrain vehicles (ATVs), 3 & 4 wheeled utility vehicles (ATCs), minibikes, off road motorcycles and dirtbikes.

TRAILERS/MOBILES

TRAILERS/MOBILE CUTTERS e.g. trailers used behind snowmobiles.

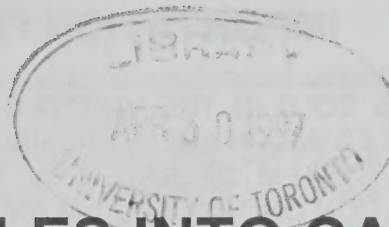
TRAILERS e.g. fifth wheel trailers, horse/stock trailers, travel trailers, utility trailers, camping trailers, boat trailers, car dollies, etc.

TRUCKS e.g. pick-up and dump trucks, cargo vans, cement mixers, etc.

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Ottawa
K1A 0N5



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The **Motor Vehicle Safety Act** (MVSA) and **Regulations** require that all vehicles imported into Canada comply with the **Canada Motor Vehicle Safety Standards** (CMVSS) in effect on the date the vehicle was manufactured. The requirements apply to the following vehicle classes if, when imported, they are less than fifteen (15) years old and to all buses manufactured after January 1, 1971:

- **BUSES** e.g. school buses, transit buses, shuttle buses, etc.
- **CHASSIS-CABS** e.g. motorized chassis.
- **MOTORCYCLES** e.g. motorcycles, limited speed motorcycles. (Also see Restricted Use Motorcycles below).
- **MULTI-PURPOSE PASSENGER VEHICLES (MPV)** e.g. vans, van conversions, minivans, motorhomes, jeeps and some 4x4's.
- **PASSENGER CARS** e.g. passenger cars, kit cars, limousines and stretched limousines.
- **RESTRICTED USE MOTORCYCLES** e.g. 3 & 4 wheeled all terrain vehicles (ATVs), 3 & 4 wheeled all terrain cycles (ATCs), minibikes, off road motorcycles and dirtbikes.
- **SNOWMOBILES**
- **SNOWMOBILE CUTTERS** e.g. trailers used behind snowmobiles.
- **TRAILERS** e.g. fifth wheel trailers, horse/stock trailers, travel trailers, utility trailers, camping trailers, boat trailers, car dollies, etc.
- **TRUCKS** e.g. pick-up and dump trucks, cargo vans, cement mixers, etc.

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IMPORTATION FROM THE UNITED STATES

SOME VEHICLES SOLD IN THE UNITED STATES ARE NOT ADMISSIBLE FOR IMPORTATION INTO CANADA. VEHICLES WHICH ARE ADMISSIBLE MUST BE PROCESSED THROUGH AN INSPECTION AND CERTIFICATION SYSTEM OPERATED BY THE **REGISTRAR OF IMPORTED VEHICLES**. TO OBTAIN MORE INFORMATION ON THIS SYSTEM AND A COPY OF THE **LIST OF VEHICLES ADMISSIBLE FROM THE UNITED STATES**, IMPORTERS MUST CONTACT THE REGISTRAR OF IMPORTED VEHICLES AT THE ADDRESS SHOWN ON PAGE 4 OF THIS LEAFLET.

COMMERCIAL IMPORTATION: The commercial importation by dealers (for sale or leasing in Canada) of new or used U.S. specification vehicles sold in the United States **is now possible** under the **Motor Vehicle Safety Act (MVSA)**. The vehicles must be processed through the **REGISTRAR OF IMPORTED VEHICLES** for inspection and certification.

Following is an overview of the requirements for the importation of various classes of vehicles from the United States. The list is meant as a guide only. Importers must contact the Registrar of Imported Vehicles to obtain detailed information and a copy of the List of Vehicles Admissible from the U.S. (CL9203).

1. Buses

Buses manufactured before January 1, 1971, are exempt from the **Motor Vehicle Safety Act and Regulations** and can be imported into Canada without entering into the Registrar of Imported Vehicles program.

Buses manufactured after January 1, 1971 must be certified by their original manufacturer to comply with all applicable United States Federal Motor Vehicle Safety Standards and be on the List of Vehicles Admissible from the U.S. (CL9203). These vehicles must be processed through the Registrar of Imported Vehicles program.

2. Vehicles (other than buses) manufactured more than fifteen (15) years before their date of importation

Vehicles fifteen years old and older (other than buses) are exempt from the **Motor Vehicle Safety Act and Regulations** and can be imported into Canada without entering into the Registrar of Imported Vehicles program.

3. Vehicles (other than buses) less than fifteen (15) years old, up to and including the 1984 model year

Vehicles in this category can be imported into Canada if they are certified by their original manufacturer to comply with United States Federal Motor Vehicle Safety Standards. These vehicles must be processed through the Registrar of Imported Vehicles program.

4. Vehicles (other than buses) from the 1985 model year to date

Vehicles in this category can be imported into Canada if they meet requirements (a) through (f) below. These vehicles must be processed through the Registrar of Imported Vehicles program.

- (a) All vehicles must bear a **Statement of Compliance (SOC)** label affixed by the original manufacturer or be accompanied by a letter from the original manufacturer indicating that they are certified to comply with United States Federal Motor Vehicle Safety Standards. *(Applicable to all vehicle classes in this category.)*

4. Vehicles (other than buses) from the 1985 model year to date (cont'd)

- (b) Passenger cars, motorhomes, motorcycles and limousines/funeral vehicles must be on the List of Vehicles Admissible from the U.S. (**CL 9203**).

Passenger Cars only Passenger cars that do not comply with **CMVSS 210.1 (tether anchorages)** and **CMVSS 215 (bumpers)** must be modified to comply with these standards. Some passenger car bumper systems are not easily modifiable and may require testing to demonstrate compliance. There are no restrictions on the person who carries out the modifications.

- (c) The importer must ensure that the vehicle complies with **CMVSS 101** and **123** (metric markings on speedometer) by having a speedometer that is calibrated to display vehicle speed in kilometers per hour. Should the vehicle not have a speedometer with metric markings, the importer must correct it by affixing adhesive labels to adjust the speedometer graduations to read in kilometers per hour. (*Applicable to passenger cars, mpvs, motorhomes, buses, trucks, motorcycles, limousines/funeral vehicles and chassis-cabs.*)
- (d) The importer must ensure that the vehicle is equipped with daytime running lights if it was manufactured after November 30, 1989. This requirement can be met by the importer installing an appropriate daytime running light kit. (*Applicable to passenger cars, mpvs, motorhomes, buses, trucks, motorcycles, limousines/funeral vehicles and if applicable, chassis-cabs.*)
- (e) The importer must ensure that there are no outstanding recalls (**Notice of Defect**) on the vehicle being imported. This requirement can be met by having the manufacturer's dealer check the vehicle identification number for any recalls issued for the vehicle. A letter or computer printout from the dealer indicating no outstanding recalls would be proof of compliance. (*Applicable to all vehicle classes*)
- (f) Vehicles equipped with airbags requiring periodic maintenance (see Owner's manual) must bear a bilingual maintenance label in accordance with **CMVSS 208(37)**. To meet this requirement we suggest that the importer contacts the vehicle manufacturer to obtain the proper label. (*Applicable to passenger cars, mpvs, motorhomes, buses, trucks and limousines/funeral vehicles.*)

5. Wrecked Vehicles

Wrecked vehicles are eligible for importation as vehicles if they are on the List of Vehicles Admissible from the U.S. (**CL 9203**) and if the importer submits a document from a foreign government motor vehicle licensing authority confirming the vehicle's salvaged or write-off status. These vehicles must be processed through the Registrar of Imported Vehicles program.

Wrecked vehicles are also eligible for entry as **parts only** provided the requirements of Customs Memorandum D9-1-11 are met.

Vehicles identified in foreign government motor vehicle licensing authority documents and/or Certificates of Title as **scrap, junk, parts only, not to be rebuilt, non-rebuildable, non-repairable, not to be re-titled, scrap metal only, etc.**, are allowed entry as parts only. The importer will not be able to obtain a license from the provinces or territories.

For additional information concerning wrecked vehicles, please refer to Customs Memorandum D19-12-1 and D9-1-11.

IMPORTATION FROM COUNTRIES OTHER THAN THE UNITED STATES

Vehicles manufactured for markets other than Canada and the United States do not comply with Canadian requirements and **cannot** be imported into Canada. Only the original manufacturer of those vehicles can certify their compliance with Canadian safety and emission standards. The only exceptions to this rule are vehicles fifteen (15) years old or older and buses manufactured before January 1, 1971.

Vehicles obtained outside of the United States but certified by the original manufacturer to comply with United States safety and emission standards will be treated as if they were being imported from the United States. All conditions previously mentioned in this leaflet will apply.

Vehicles of all model years can be temporarily entered into Canada without complying with Canadian standards if the vehicle is being entered exclusively for use by a tourist or visitor to Canada or by a person passing through Canada to another country. To facilitate entry a Transport Canada letter authorizing temporary entry should be obtained prior to entering the vehicle into Canada.

There are also Revenue Canada requirements for the temporary entry of goods. Please contact Revenue Canada for further information.

FURTHER INFORMATION

You may contact the Registrar of Imported Vehicles at:

**Registrar of Imported Vehicles,
P.O. Box 217,
Pickering On L1V 2R4
Tel: 1-800-333-0558 (Canada & USA)
Greater Toronto Area (905) 837-7918**

If, after contacting the Registrar of Imported Vehicles, you have any questions concerning Transport Canada requirements you may contact:

**Transport Canada,
Vehicle Importation,
13th Floor, Canada Bldg.,
344 Slater Street,
Ottawa ON K1A 0N5
Telephone: (613) 998-2174
Facsimile: (613) 998-4831**

If you have any questions concerning Revenue Canada's importation requirements you may contact:

**Revenue Canada,
Customs, Excise and Taxation,
Travellers Directorate,
Sir Richard Scott Bldg., 8th floor,
191 Laurier Street West,
Ottawa ON K1A 0L5
Facsimile: (613) 954-4570**


Automated Customs Information System (ACIS):

Tel: (403) 292-8750 Calgary	(613) 993-0534 Ottawa
(403) 495-3400 Edmonton	(418) 648-4445 Quebec
(902) 426-2911 Halifax	(416) 973-8022 Toronto
(905) 308-8715 Hamilton	(604) 666-0545 Vancouver
(506) 851-7020 Moncton	(519) 257-6400 Windsor
(514) 283-9900 Montreal	(204) 983-6004 Winnipeg

You can call toll-free from other locations in Canada by dialing **1-800-461-9999** or you may wish to contact your local Customs office. Look under the heading "Revenue Canada" in the Government of Canada listings in your telephone book for the office nearest you.

LICENSING and other PROVINCIAL/TERRITORIAL REQUIREMENTS

The licensing and registration of vehicles in Canada fall within Provincial/Territorial jurisdictions which may have additional requirements (e.g. trailers may require brakes and a break-away device). You must contact the Provincial/Territorial government in the Province/Territory in which you will be residing for information on road use, licensing and registration of vehicles.



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